

Sept. 29, 1947.

Dr. H. Eisen,
Bellevue Hosp.,
New York, N.Y.,

Dear Dr. Eisen,

My good friend, Kim Atwood, told me that since the time you were instructor, and I student, in Pathology at P&S, you have been working on the formation of antibodies by yeast, and that you have substantially confirmed the report of Fox and Ward in this regard. Is this correct?! If it is, there are, as you well know great implications for the study of the mechanism of antibody production, but also for the genetics and general chemistry of the synthesis of specific proteins. It is in the genetics that I am interested, inasmuch as I hold a chair here which might informally be titled "for Research in Genetic Microbiology".

I am in the last stages of preparing a review of the genetics of microorganisms, and had formally planned to leave out any mention of Fox's work subject to some confirmation. Would you be averse to a mention of your studies in the form: "The production of specific precipitins by yeast has been reported by Fox and Ward, () and since confirmed by Eisen (priv. comm.)"? Off the record I would be eager to hear any specific information that you may have uncovered.

If you are surprised at the present address, I should tell you that I took a leave of absence during my third year at P&S to work with E.L.Tatum at Yale U. on bacterial genetics. That line of work

materialized so well that I took my Ph.D. in it, and was prepared to return to P&S and complete my M.D. on a USPHS fellowship when I was offered my present post under conditions too attractive to refuse. Right now, I am busied mostly in setting up my laboratory, but real progress is being made, and I should be ready to get to work again in a short while.

Let's hear from you if you can tear yourself away from your exciting work long enough to write a letter.

Best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg,
(Asst. Professor of Genetics).